

## When to Fight the Fire...

Only attempt to extinguish the fire if all the following are true:

- Everyone has left or is leaving the building.
- The fire department is being notified.
- The fire is small and confined to the immediate area where it started (wastebasket, cushion, small appliance, etc.)
- Your extinguisher is rated for the type of fire you are attempting to extinguish, and is in good working order.
- You have knowledge and can operate the extinguisher effectively.

If you have the slightest doubt about whether you should fight the fire — DON'T! Instead, get out and close the door behind you.

## Protect yourself at all times!

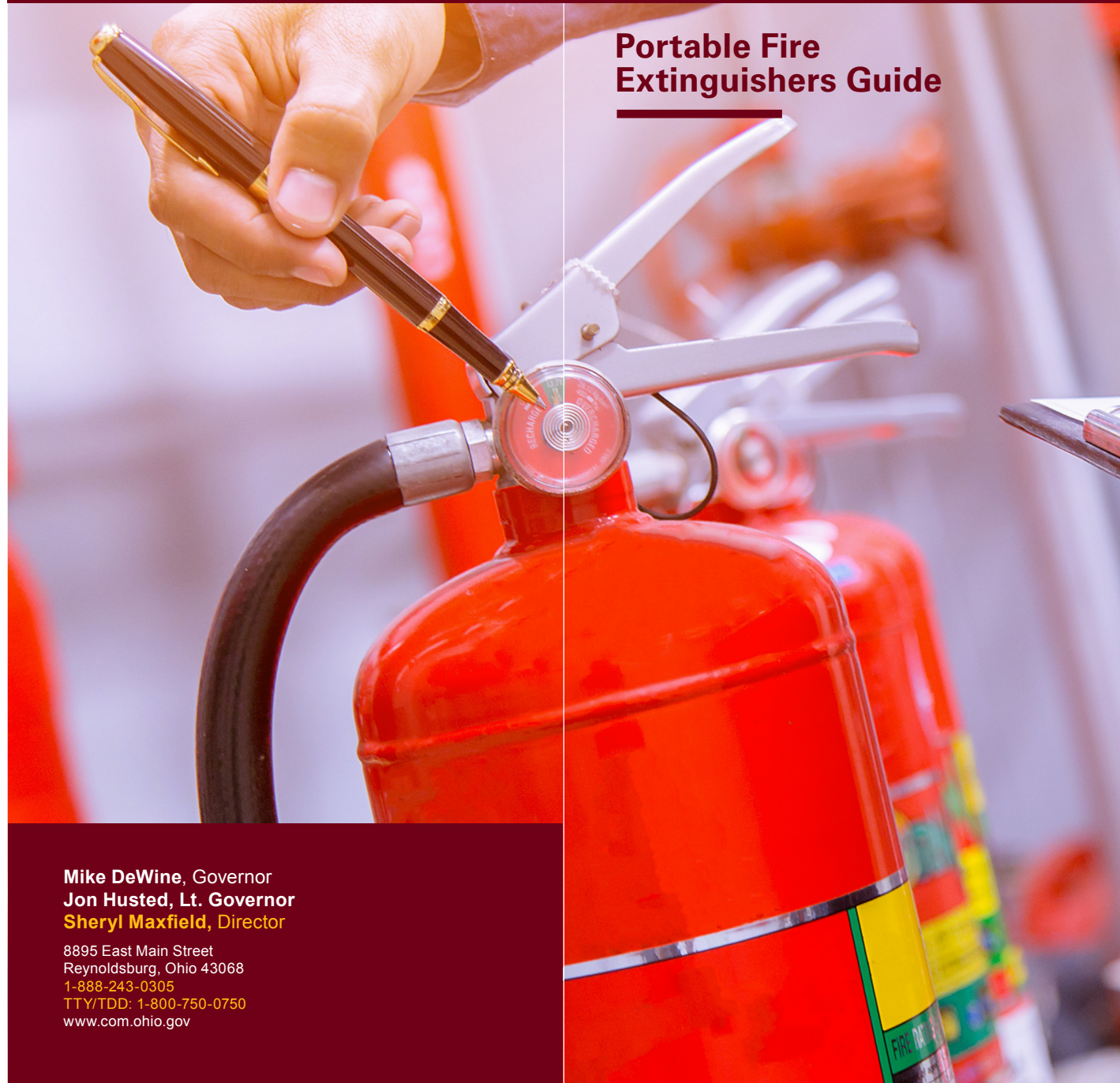
Stay low. Avoid breathing the smoke, heated gases, or extinguishing agent. If the fire starts to spread or threatens your escape route, **get out** immediately, and close the door to contain the fire.

Ohio

Department  
of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

## Portable Fire Extinguishers Guide



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**A portable fire extinguisher** can put out a small fire or contain it until the fire department arrives.

Portable extinguishers are not designed to extinguish large or spreading fires. Even with small fires, they are only useful under the right conditions:

- An extinguisher must be large enough for the fire at hand. It must be fully charged and in working order.
- The operator must know how to use the extinguisher quickly without taking time to read directions during an emergency.
- The operator must be reasonably strong to lift and operate the extinguisher.

### When NOT to Fight the Fire

There are times when you should not attempt to extinguish a fire:

- If the fire is spreading beyond the immediate area where it started or is already a large fire.
- If the fire could block your escape route.
- If you are in doubt as to whether the extinguisher you have is the proper type for the fire at hand.

If one of the above conditions are present, leave immediately; close off the area, and leave the fire to the fire department.



#### CLASS "A" FIRES:

Fires involving ordinary combustibles, such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, and plastics.



#### CLASS "B" FIRES:

Fires involving flammable liquids, oils, greases, tars, oil base paints, and flammable gases.



#### CLASS "C" FIRES:

Fires involving energized electrical equipment. (It is important to ensure the extinguishing agent is nonconductive.)



#### CLASS "D" FIRES:

Fires that involve combustible metals or combustible metal alloys commonly found in chemical labs. Designated extinguishers must match the metal and should be labeled with a list of metals that match the extinguishing agent. Extinguishers have no numerical rating.

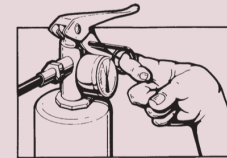


#### CLASS "K" FIRES:

Fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. This is for commercial kitchens. A placard which identifies the use of the extinguisher as a secondary backup means to the automatic fire extinguisher system should be placed near each portable K fire extinguisher in the cooking area.

## Remember

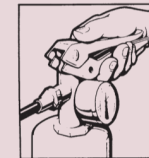
If you need to use an extinguisher, just think of the word **"P.A.S.S."**



**PULL** the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher located in the handle.



**AIM** the nozzle or hose at the base of the flames. Check the manufacturer's recommendations for a safe discharge distance.



**SQUEEZE** or press handles together.



**SWEEP** from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.

**By following these procedures, a fire can be extinguished in the quickest and safest manner possible.**